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COUNTRY Germany (Soviet Zone)

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REPORT NO. [REDACTED]

TOPIC Schoenwalde Airfield.

25X1C

JUL 1951

EVALUATION see below

PLACE OBTAINED [REDACTED]

DATE OF CONTENT [REDACTED]

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DATE OBTAINED [REDACTED]

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DATE PREPARED 31 May 1951

REFERENCES [REDACTED]

PAGES 2 ENCLOSURES (NO. & TYPE)

REMARKS

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SOURCE [REDACTED]

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1. On 10 April 1951, six twin-engine aircraft practiced flying at the Schoenwalde airfield between 9 and 11 a.m. The weather was rainy and windy. On 11 April, biplanes made night flights between 8 p.m. and midnight in clear weather.
2. On 14 April, air maneuvers were held in stormy weather. Thirty single-engine aircraft took off in rapid succession and assembled in three squadrons of ten planes. * Also on 14 April a total of 16 single-engine aircraft crashed, according to information received by source at the time. Thirty single-engine planes were counted in the air at 6 p.m. The last plane landed at 6:46 p.m. Soviet officers said that the accident was due to stormy weather. **
3. On 17 April, the persons killed in the crash, a total of 31 flying personnel, including officers and MI, were buried in Potsdam. All of the officers of the units stationed at the airfield were present at the funeral. Political officer Lieutenant Colonel Ivanov, (fnu), together with other officers ranking from major upward investigated the crash between 14 and 16 April. It was learned from talks with officers that other aircraft had crashed and not all the victims had been found. [REDACTED] The German employees at the field were officially informed that a number of officers were on furlough. Six officers, including two lieutenants billeted in room 8 of block 23 were missing. A German employee said that a colonel of Unit [REDACTED] was allegedly killed.
4. On 19 April, twin-engine aircraft practiced flying between 9:30 a.m. and 2 p.m. There was an overcast. The white numbers 8, 43, and 44 were seen on the fuselages of three single-engine planes parked south of the headquarters building. Major Ivan Rapkin and another major were promoted to the rank of lieutenant colonel. Captain Ritmeister, (fnu), of Unit [REDACTED] was billeted in room 23 of building 23. He wore blue-bordered golden epaulets and the pilot insignia, but he was never seen flying [REDACTED]
5. At reveille, 100 MI wearing black-bordered blue epaulets were counted in front of building 21. Officers of building 23 were also present at the reveille. Building 22 housed storerooms for military goods and clothing. The interpreter's office, photolab office of the Free German Trade Union,

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2

25X1A

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laundry, and the ironing room were also in building 22.

6. It was repeatedly observed that the main guard detail was composed of one artillery officer and 6 ML. The sentries had 24-hour guard duty. An air force officer and an artillery officer took turns as duty officer. ***
7. Schoolrooms for officers, who wore golden-bordered blue epaulets, were in buildings 34 and 36. Maps were seen on the walls of the schoolrooms. The MVD of the air force unit was quartered in building 25 and the artillery MVD was housed in building 38.

- 25X1A 8. Source was unable to determine whether the twin-engine unit had its own ground personnel. The Germans employed by Unit [REDACTED] are paid by a sergeant of this unit who receives the money in air force headquarters building No 9. The passes of all Germans employed at the field are stamped and signed by the artillery unit headquarters. The air force unit has nothing to do with such matters.

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9. In the afternoon of 22 April, eight single-engine low-wing monoplanes with in-line engine were parked in front of a hangar at the field. Four additional planes of the same type were parked between some splinterproof shelters on the northeastern edge of the field. The hangars were closed. There was no flying. Four AA guns of medium size were located on the western edge of the field. A radio installation, consisting of four braced masts about 10 to 12 meters high and a wooden hut in the middle, was seen in the southwestern section of the field. Passenger car [REDACTED] entered and left the airfield.

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- 25X1A Comment. The occupation of the airfield has not changed compared with the last report. [REDACTED] One ground attack regiment and one air reconnaissance regiment are still believed to be stationed in Schoenwalde.

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Comment. The aircraft crashed in the vicinity of Luckau. See

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- 25X1A Comment. In addition to air force units, elements of the 31st AA Div are also stationed at the field. For building blocks see sketch of air-field attached to [REDACTED]

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